



## Graduate Course Syllabus

### MFA 509: Storytelling

Center: Online

#### Course Prerequisites

None

#### Course Description

Analyze and practice fundamentals of storytelling, including narrative arc, plot, and character development. Deconstruct popular stories in literature and film to understand characteristics of beginnings that hook, tension-building middles, and satisfying endings. Refine and polish an original premise through workshop and reflection. Apply techniques to your own stories.

#### Course Outcomes

- Develop the elements of plot and premise in an original narrative
- Incorporate workshop feedback into the premise of an original narrative
- Evaluate the use of feedback for its implications on an original premise
- Utilize craft techniques for the development of a premise and plot
- Integrate the elements of storytelling in the development of an original plot

#### Required Materials

In this course, you will choose two novels from a [recommended book list](#). You will reference these texts in assignments throughout the term. Because you will need these texts right away, you may purchase them as e-books directly from [VitalSource](#).

If this is your first time purchasing materials from VitalSource, refer to the [Getting Started with the VitalSource Store guide](#). For more information on accessing your books once you've purchased them, refer to the [Bookshelf Online Overview guide](#).

#### Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

## Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	8	10	80
Writing Assignments	2	45	90
Activity	1	40	40
Journals	2	35	70
Workshop	1	50	50
Assignments	2	135	270
Final Project Submission	1	400	400
		<b>Total Course Points:</b>	1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

## University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

\* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

## Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

## Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Understanding Story Premise 1-1 Before You Get Started... 1-2 Discussion: Story Premise 1-3 Activity: Choose Literary Works (Non-graded) 1-4 Writing Assignment: Analyzing Storytelling Elements 1-5 Final Project Review
2	Plot: Part I 2-1 Before You Get Started... 2-2 Discussion: Understanding Plot 2-3 Activity: Plot Mapping
3	Plot: Part II 3-1 Before You Get Started... 3-2 Discussion: Analysis of Plot 3-3 Journal: Application to Your Story 3-4 Reminder
4	Genre 4-1 Before You Get Started... 4-2 Journal: Exploring Genre 4-3 Assignment: Rough Pitch
5	Character 5-1 Before You Get Started... 5-2 Discussion: Character 5-3 Workshop: Pitch 5-4 Final Project Reminder
6	Turning Points and Techniques 6-1 Before You Get Started... 6-2 Discussion: Turning Points and Techniques 6-3 Assignment: Rough Plot Outline 6-4 Reviews and Reminders
7	Conflict and Resolution 7-1 Before You Get Started... 7-2 Discussion: Conflict and Resolution 7-3 Writing Assignment: Crafting Conflict in a Scene 7-4 Reminder
8	Strategies for Writers 8-1 Before You Get Started... 8-2 Discussion: Strategies for a Writer 8-3 Final Project Reminder
9	Final Project Submission 9-1 Final Submission: Premise Pitch and Plot Outline

10	<p>Reflection</p> <p>10-1 Discussion: Reflection</p> <p>10-2 ePortfolio</p> <p>10-3 Course Wrap-Up</p>
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**Attendance Policy**

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

**Late Assignments Policy**

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

**SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Student Handbook**

Review the [student handbook](#).

**ADA/504 Compliance Statement**

Southern New Hampshire University is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. The university prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities.

As soon as you become aware of a disability, we encourage you to contact the Online Accessibility Center (OAC) to discuss accommodations for which you may be qualified. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student and the OAC. Note that accommodations are not retroactive and that disability accommodations are not provided until an accommodation letter has been processed.

Contact Information:

Online Accessibility Center

Phone: 866-305-9430

Email: [oad@snhu.edu](mailto:oad@snhu.edu)

For questions concerning support services, documentation guidelines, or general disability issues, visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) website.

If you feel you have been denied appropriate disability-related accommodations, including appropriate auxiliary aids and services, you may file a grievance as described in the ADA/504 Grievance Policy found on the [Disability Services](#) webpage.

**Academic Honesty Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic

work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic honesty policy](#).

### **Copyright Policy**

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

### **SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy**

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

### **Southern New Hampshire University Policies**

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).

### **Student Work Samples**

For the purpose of continuous improvement of our educational training, Southern New Hampshire University's College of Online and Continuing Education may, on occasion, utilize anonymous student work samples for internal professional development and staff training. If you have any questions or concerns, contact your advisor. If you would like to withdraw permission for use of your work, please email [assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu](mailto:assessmentcalibration@snhu.edu).